FIFTY YEARS AGO

A Mobile Consulting Room (Report on a Demonstration given at the Annual Provincial Meeting of the Association, Manchester, July, 1954)

The problem of medical examinations for small numbers of employees scattered over a large area has been solved in the North Western Gas Board by the use of a mobile consulting room. The Board has 20,000 employees in an area of 4000 square miles, mainly situated in the counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. There are three fixed examination centres in the area, and works' surgeries at some of the larger works, which are also used for conducting medical examinations. The mobile consulting room is supplementary. This mobile unit has now been in use for just over 12 months. In that time 2974 people have been seen. The medical service is still being built up in the area and the unit is not yet being used to capacity. On a basis of 20 patients per day, and allowing for travelling time, the unit can deal with 5000 patients per annum if it is in use 5 days per week. After a year's working, it can be said that the unit has proved its worth and it is felt that, it could be used with advantage by medical officers who face a similar problem.

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North Western Gas Board

Tannery 2: ‘It’s my job to make sure it comes out like leather and not tripe’. (Reproduced with permission from ‘Working Lives’ by John Darwell.)

Tannery 3: Checking skins. (Reproduced with permission from ‘Working Lives’ by John Darwell.)